

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of April 9, 2012

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:06 P.M.

Present: Councilmember Peter Grefrath, Board Members Heidi Catalano, Christopher Codner, Michael Griffin, Joan Hluchan, Don Smith, John Toale, Recreation Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

Absent: Member Janine Borgersen

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 12, 2012: Member Smith made a Motion to Accept the Minutes as presented; Member Codner seconded the Motion; all in favor, the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Grefrath stated that at his request, Mr. Buchheister will incorporate subject updates in the Director's Report.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Winter 2012 program update: Director Buchheister reported that the Winter Programs have concluded excepting the Chess, Dance and Mommy/Daddy and Me Programs which will finish in May. All programs have been very successful. An e-mail will be sent to all families participating requesting feedback for future program improvements.

b. Spring 2012 Registration Update: The Board was presented an update of the registration which has been underway for two weeks. New programs include 'Play Fit' for children Grades 1 through 6 and an Ice Hockey Clinic for Grades 2 through 8. Director Buchheister asked Member Chris Codner to provide an update and details of the program as he has been an integral reason for the program's creation and success. There are currently 31 registered in the program; Westwood High School coaches and students are assisting with the veteran and novice skaters.

Special Needs Program: The program is well established and word-of-mouth has been effective to notify this community of the program. High School Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays as 'shadows' for the participants.

Team Tennis: For children aged 10 and over has grown to thirty-one participants.

Forever Young: The Senior fitness class on Tuesday mornings has a membership of over 25 persons with an average weekly attendance of 15. The participation is steadily increasing.

c. Egg Hunt Recap: Director Buchheister thanked Ms. McDonough and the Board Member who attended for their assistance with the event. The exceptionally good weather helped make it a great event. The two sponsors of the program almost completely covered the event costs.

d. Committee Assignments: Mr. Buchheister would like each Board Member to accept a topic for research and program development including but not limited to: programming for active adults of 55 years and older, Teen Center: greater inclusion of middle to upper-aged teens; Youth / Pre-School Programs; Facility Improvements i.e. Community Center and Park; Business/Corporate Sponsorship for programs / events / facilities.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Community Center Security System: The security camera in the gymnasium needed to be replaced which prompted a review of the system. Additional cameras have been added in the Meeting Rooms. The entire system now runs through a DVR recording which Director Buchheister can access 24/7 from any computer. Additional improvements are under consideration and a similar system is under review for

the Westvale Park building and playground. The system improvements have been financed through the Recreation Trust Fund at no cost to the residents.

b. Westvale Park: The 30 year old storage trailers have been removed from the 'A' field area which will be replaced by a new unit to be shared by Westwood Baseball and Football. The entire perimeter area will be revitalized and landscaped. Future plans include a batting cage in this area.

News Channel 12 did a report on the pathway connecting Westvale Park with the Bergen County Pascack Brook Park.

The Dragons Soccer Club has postponed all practices and games for a few weeks to allow the grass seeded last fall to take hold. The grass on both multi-purpose fields is currently in excellent condition. The D.P.W. will be mowing the fields versus the Let It Grow Contractor. A private contractor will continue undertake field fertilization.

Westwood Baseball put a great deal of work to repair and improve the pitcher's mound and batting area. Recreation bought tarps from the Trust Account to protect the mound when not in use.

c. Geese Peace: An e-mail was received from a resident regarding the Canada Geese deterrent program requesting that resident participants implement the program during this season. Director Buchheister reported that there is not a significant problem at Westvale Park due to the level of constant activity. Discussion followed on the goose population in other parks / areas of Westwood.

Mr. Buchheister invited the Board to participate in the program.

d. Park Permits / Activity: Director Buchheister requested the Board Members be observant of park activities to assure proper use of park facilities during their daily travels in town. Any organization and any group of 10 persons or more are required to have a Permit for Use. If anyone is using park facilities without a Permit, the Westwood Police should be contacted to have the persons cease.

e. Tennis / Basketball Courts: Member Borgersen questioned the condition and possible repair of the McKinley park tennis courts. Discussion followed of the condition of the tennis courts and various basketball courts in Westwood. Director Buchheister spoke of several available Grants which could be used for the improvements of the various courts.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:47 P.M. by Chair Griffin; seconded by Vice Chair Catalano. The next meeting is Monday, May 14, 2012 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.